



St Stephen's  
CE Primary School

John 13:34 'Love one another, as I have loved you'

# NEWSLETTER

18: FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2026

Learning, loving and growing; together as God's children

We are proud to be...

Part of the  
National Year of Reading 2026

GO  
ALL  
IN.

The Year of Reading 2026 is a year-long campaign that encourages families to enjoy reading together, build strong reading habits at home, and help children discover the joy and power of books.



Our ambition is: 'We want every St Stephen's child to leave our school as a confident, fluent reader who loves books! Reading is not just a subject for us—it is the cornerstone of everything we want our children to achieve.'



Each week we will be sharing reading updates with you via this newsletter. It will include recommended reads, reading events, reading challenges, plus lots more.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP



As part of **The Year of Reading**, we want to show how reading comes in lots of different forms - cuddled up with a picture book at bedtime, looking through the programme at a football match or checking the receipt after the big shop! PLEASE send in photographs of you/your child reading out and about to [ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk](mailto:ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk) - we'd love to share them each week in our newsletter and inspire one other!



## Come and learn with us

## Number Day 2026

- EYFS Monday 2nd February at 10.30am
- Year 1 Monday 2nd February at 9.30am
- Year 2 Thursday 5th February at 9:00am
- Year 3 Tuesday 3rd February at 9:00am
- Year 4 Friday 6th February at 10.45am
- Year 5 Wednesday 4th February at 9am
- Year 6 Wednesday 4th February at 9am



Pupils are invited to 'dress up' with any clothing that has a 'number' on Friday 6th February.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

Phone: 0161 764 1132

Email: [ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk](mailto:ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk)

Facebook: [St Stephen's CE Primary School, Bury.](#)

Website: [www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/](http://www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/)



LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR  
SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor 92%  
Parent Portal usage



School Money

# OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS Amjad and Lama  
 YEAR 1 Ayat and Adam  
 YEAR 2 Lucas and Yusuf Ja  
 YEAR 3 Ivy and Olivia  
 YEAR 4 Jake and Bisma  
 YEAR 5 Nathan and Aizah  
 YEAR 6 Zahra and Myra



# OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Annabella - YR	Joshua - Y1	Zoe - Y4

# THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

<u>NURSERY</u>	91.43%	0 lates	<u>YEAR 3</u>	99.20%	4 lates
<u>RECEPTION</u>	90.77%	6 lates	<u>YEAR 4</u>	100.0%	2 lates
<u>YEAR 1</u>	95.42%	2 lates	<u>YEAR 5</u>	96.0%	2 lates
<u>YEAR 2</u>	97.50%	4 lates	<u>YEAR 6</u>	94.48%	0 lates

Number of lates this week: 20



Improved from 34 last week!

Punctuality Champions: Nursery and Year 6



Attendance Heroes: Year 4



# Parent information, support and signposting

Keeping our children, and each other, safe is our number 1 priority at St Stephen's. Each week we will share key information we hope will be useful to our families.



[Link here to our school website for helpful information, links and downloads.](#)

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Denney (DSL), Mrs Garside or Mr Smith (DDSL)

## St. Stephen's is an Emotionally Friendly Setting



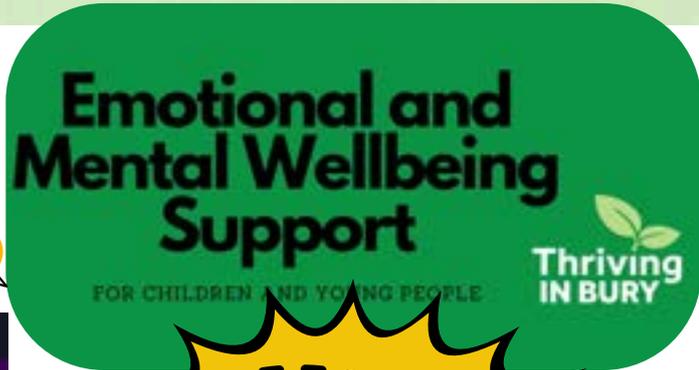
Our EFS accreditation signifies that our school has implemented a whole-school approach to address emotional needs, including clear safeguarding and health and safety policies, demonstrating a strong focus on creating a safe and supportive learning environment for ALL. We are very proud to be the first primary in Bury to receive this!

Please see Padlet links below for further support:

[For children and young people](#)

[For parents and carers](#)

CLICK HERE



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **ROBLOX**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME**
- MATURE CONTENT**
- IN-GAME SPENDING**
- RISK OF ADDICTION**
- COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS**
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
- PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE**
- CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT**
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**

Advice for Parents & Educators

Meet Our Expert

Wake Up Wednesday The National College!

@wake\_up\_weds #wakeuptuesday thenationalcollege @wake-up-wednesday @wake-up-weds

Roblox might be a favourite with your children, but its huge mix of user-created worlds can sometimes expose them to things they're not ready for.



This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide helps parents and educators understand the risks, set smarter controls and support children to enjoy Roblox more safely.



The Local Offer helps SEND families access information about the services that are available to them.



# Spring 2026 East Bury Community Educational Psychology Service (CEPS)

## *Parent/Carer Bulletin*

### Upcoming CEPS Events for Parents

#### **Parent Drop In**

- Tuesday 20th January | 9:00am-12:00pm
- B2E Hub

#### **Parent Drop In**

- Wednesday 25th February | 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

#### **Parent Drop In**

- Tuesday 17th March | 13:00pm-15:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

#### **Parent Drop In**

- Thursday 26th March | 16:00pm - 18:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Articles for parents in supporting children through grief, eating difficulties, and festive stress [here](#).  
To register for talks: [Kooth Talks Sign-Up](#) | Contact: [kel@kooth.com](mailto:kel@kooth.com)

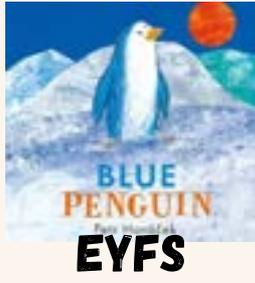
### Contact

For general enquiries, please contact your Assistant Community Educational  
Psychologist: [r.lak@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.lak@bury.gov.uk)

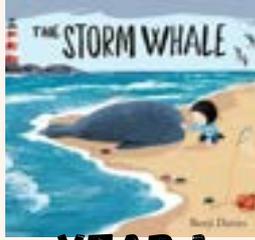
# THE YEAR OF READING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

**“ Why is Reading our Key Priority?**  
 At St Stephen's, reading is—and will always remain—a top priority, as it underpins every child's success both in school and beyond. When children learn to read fluently, confidently and with understanding, they can fully access the curriculum, enjoy learning, and grow into independent, lifelong learners.

So you can talk about them at home, please see below some of the key texts we are enjoying in our classes right now.



**EYFS**



**YEAR 1**



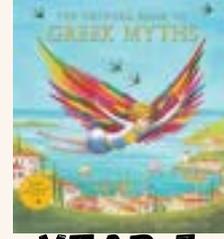
**YEAR 2**



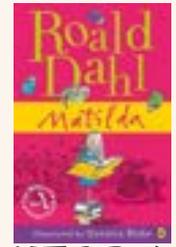
**YEAR 3**



**YEAR 4**



**YEAR 5**



**YEAR 6**

**“ YIPPEE! ST. STEPHEN'S HAVE BEEN CAUGHT READING... ”**



Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026. **GO ALL IN.**

Reading to me is escaping from reality and going into a world of words!  
 PHB Year 6



Visit your local library!

**“ Top Tip for reading**

My daughters are now 16, but from the very start I always had the subtitles switched on for films and TV programmes. Without even realising it, they were constantly reading along – learning new vocabulary and strengthening fluency. A wonderfully sneaky way to boost reading!

Mrs Denney



**WELCOME BACK**

WEEK DAYS (ALL LOCATIONS)  
 Tuesday 10am - 4.30pm  
 Wednesday 10am - 4.30pm  
 Thursday 12.30pm - 7pm  
 Friday 10am - 4.30pm

WEEKENDS  
 Saturday 9.30am - 1pm (BURY, RADCLIFFE & RAMSBOTTOM)  
 SUNDAY 9.30am - 1pm (PRESTWICH)  
 VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.BURY.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES



**YOU are in the spotlight:**

*Rslan* Year 5

**Favourite food:** Pizza  
**Favourite film/programme:** CN cartoons  
**Favourite subject:** PE  
**What is the best thing about St Stephen's?** The teachers  
**What would make St Stephen's better?** Nothing!  
**What is your greatest achievement in school?** Getting star of the week  
**What is your greatest achievement out of school?** My football  
**Anything else?** No

*you are*  
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

If you need support with your wellbeing, speak to one of our Wellbeing Warriors, Mrs Cooney or Katie. YOU matter!



**Wellbeing Club with Katie every:**  
**MONDAY**  
12.30-1.00pm in HUB Connect

**Joke of the week:**  
Q: What do get when you mix a cow with an earthquake?  
A: Milkshake!



**REMEMBER!** You're awesome

# Wellbeing

This week, the Wellbeing Warriors have chosen to focus on:

**BE ACTIVE**  
Try a new sport or activity together

## WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING

- CONNECT**  
TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED
- Give**  
Your time, your words, your presence
- TAKE NOTICE**  
REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY
- KEEP LEARNING**  
EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF
- BE ACTIVE**  
NO LIMIT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR BODY

INTRODUCE THESE FIVE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.

NHS 5 ways to wellbeing.

## Thought of the week:

**SOONER OR LATER, THE TRUTH COMES OUT**

Everything that is hidden will be shown. Everything that is secret will be made known.

Luke 12:2

### KID TIP

Keeping lies hidden is usually impossible, so why even try?

### A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, sooner or later, the truth has a way of coming out. So give me the wisdom and the courage to tell the truth in the very beginning. The truth is Your way, Lord; let it be my way too.

Bury

Young People's  
Mental Health  
Support Team  
Thrive in Education

Hello, my name is Katie



NHS

Pennine Care  
NHS Foundation Trust

### Who are Bury Mental Health Support Team (MHST)?

We are a service who works with Bury schools and colleges to support children and young people who struggle with their mental health.

Our goals are:

- To work with children, young people or parents on their own or in a group.
- To work with teachers to make school an emotionally friendly place for all.
- To give advice to school staff to help children and young people get the right support.



I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner



### How can I help?

I am trained to help children and young people, who may start to struggle with emotions such as;

**Worry, sadness or fear**



My allocated day with your school is:

**MONDAY**

From 3<sup>rd</sup>

November 2025

I work all year round so, i can support you during the school holidays.

### How to ask for help?

If you are struggling with your emotions, please speak to;

- Your teacher
- Mrs Denney
- Mrs Cooney
- Parents/Carers
- Any trusted adult



### What do I do?

- Work closely with school staff to help make school a happy and emotionally friendly place for everyone.
- Deliver workshops and teaching for school staff, pupils and parents.
- Offer advice about other services that are available within Bury so that you get the right support.



### A bit about me:

Some fun facts about me:

- I really enjoy reading
- My favourite animal is a Lion
- I don't like spiders!



I look forward to working within your school and meeting you all.

Katie is in school every  
**MONDAY**

In partnership with:

**& Early Break**



For the year's overview, [please view school calendar](#)

Event	Date
Celebration Worship	Friday 3pm
Family Language ESOL Phonics Course - see page 11 for more details	14th January - 11th February 9am-11am Once a week on a Wednesday
Year 4 non-uniform day	Friday 30th January
Maths Week - see page 1 including parent stay and learn sessions	2nd February - 6th February
FAMILY BREAKFAST	Monday 9th February at 8:15am
Y3 Ancient Egyptian Dress-Up Day Y3 Stay and Learn session	Wednesday 11th February Wednesday 11th February @ 3:00pm
February half-term	Monday 16th - Friday 20th February
Reception & Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme	Thursday 26th February
Vocabulary Parade	Friday 6th March
Spring Assessment Week	Monday 9th - Friday 13th March
Easter Holidays	Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April
May Bank Holiday - School closed to pupils	Monday 4 May
Local Elections - School closed to pupils	Thursday 7th May

# THIS WEEK



## Picture News

# Earth Medal: Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?

## TAKEHOME

19th - 25th January



Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?

## In the news this week

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- > Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- > Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



USE your VOICE

# What do you think?

“The award may encourage people to help others and the world but we should do that anyway.” - Mrs Mason

Tickets on sale in school  
Sunday afternoons 2pm-4pm



# Snow White



tickets £7 children £3

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th,  
Saturday 21st February 2026  
Curtain up at 7:15pm

St Stephen's School, Colville Drive BL9 2DX  
Contact Gill on 07872 389561 for further details  
*In association with St Stephen's Church*



Greater Manchester

## NEED URGENT DENTAL CARE AND DONT HAVE A DENTIST OR DENTIST CLOSED? WE CAN HELP!



### WHAT WE DO

We support people with **urgent dental conditions** to:

- Help find urgent appointments locally
- Support you with urgent care if you don't have a dentist or if your dentist is closed
- Provide same-day advice and help you manage your urgent dental problem where appropriate



### WHEN TO USE THIS SERVICE

#### In Hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

If you have a dentist, you should contact them first. If you don't have a dentist, we can triage your problem and help, providing you meet the eligibility criteria.

#### Out of hours (Mon-Fri 6pm-10pm, wknds & bank holidays 8am-10pm)

We can help all patients with urgent dental issues

#### After 10pm

Call NHS 111 for urgent dental advice



### FOR URGENT DENTAL ISSUES

Urgent dental problems include the following conditions, which should receive self-help advice and treatment (where appropriate) within 24 hours:

- Dental and soft tissue infections
- Severe dental and facial pain; that is, pain that cannot be controlled by the patient following self-help advice
- Fractured teeth or tooth

*Please note: This is an appointment-only service and carries a fee (currently £27.40 as of April 2025), which may increase annually with inflation. If you would like help finding an NHS dentist for routine care, please visit: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)*



Greater Manchester  
Urgent Primary Care Alliance

GM Urgent Dental Care Telephony Service

**CALL NOW 0333 332 3800**

Open 8am-10pm, 7 days a week (including weekends & bank holidays)